

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-11 ISO-00 EA-09 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-02 SP-02

STR-04 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 SS-15

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 /110 W

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R 232153Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8886

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

USMISSION GENEVA

USDEL MTN GENEVA UNN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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POUCHED AS INFO TO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, CA, EC

SUBJ: VISIT OF EUROPEAN COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI

TO OTTAWA FEB 18-20, 1976

1. ORTOLI VISITED OTTAWA ON OCCASION OF OPENING OF
OFFICE OF OFFICIAL EC DELEGATION TO BE HEADED BY
CURT HEIDENREICH. WHILE IN OTTAWA, HE CALLED ON
PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU AND EXTAFF MINISTER MACEACHEN,
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ADDRESSED CANADIAN INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,

AND HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH HE ANNOUNCED THAT NEGOTIATION OF EC/CANADA AGREEMENT WILL BEGIN IN MARCH. VISIT RECEIVED MINIMAL MEDIA COVERAGE.

2. ORTOLI'S SPEECH TO CHA ON FEBRUARY 19 WAS GENERALLY UPBEAT WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF EC AND ITS INTEREST IN CLOSER RELATIONS WITH CANADA. IN KEY PARAGRAPHS RELATING TO PROPOSED "CONTRACTUAL LINK" ORTOLI EMPHASIZED THAT ANY AGREEMENT WOULD BE NON-PREFERENTIAL AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE AN INSTRUMENT FOR GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR:

BEGIN TEXT: FIRST, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE NON-PREFERENTIAL. WE DO NOT SEEK FOR THE COMMUNITY A RELATIONSHIP OF PRIVILEGE. WE DO NOT PUT THE COMMUNITY FORWARD AS SOME FORM OF "ALTERNATIVE" TO CANADA'S LINKS WITH THE UNITED STATES OR THE FAR EAST. WE KNOW THAT CANADA IS FULLY AS MUCH A NORTH AMERICAN AND A PACIFIC RIM COUNTRY AS SHE IS A TRANSATLANTIC CREATURE WITH ROOTS IN WESTERN EUROPE. WE CONSIDER ONLY THAT CANADA AND THE COMMUNITY HAVE THEIR OWN PARTICULAR AND INDIVIDUAL RELATIONSHIP TO WORK OUT, IN WHICH CANADA WILL SEE ADVANTAGE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A EUROPEAN DIMENSION.

SECOND, I THINK WE SHOULD WORK FOR AN AGREEMENT OF AN ESSENTIALLY EVOLUTIONARY CHARACTER. NO SPHERE OF ACTIVITY SUITABLE FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION SHOULD BE RULED OUT IN ADVANCE. IT WOULD BE FOR CANADA AND THE COMMUNITY TO USE THE AGREEMENT AS A FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH POSSIBILITIES FOR COOPERATION COULD BE EXPLORED AND TAKEN UP PRAGMATICALLY AND PROGRESSIVELY. THUS THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT WOULD NOT BE INTENDED TO BE A DETAILED, ONCE-FOR-ALL BLUEPRINT OF WHAT CANADA/ COMMUNITY RELATIONS SHOULD LOOK LIKE. THE BEGINNINGS WOULD BE MODEST. BUT THE JOINT PROGRAMME OF WORK DRAWN UP WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGREEMENT COULD BECOME PROGRESSIVELY MORE AMBITIOUS.

ANOTHER IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE NATURE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AGREEMENT IS THAT IT WOULD BE COMPLEMENTARY TO, AND NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR, COOPERATION ACTIVITIES BETWEEN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMUNITY AND CANADA. ON OUR SIDE, THE INTENTION IS THAT THE COMMUNITY AND ITS INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES SHOULD EACH DEVELOP THEIR COOPERATION WITH CANADA HARMONIOUSLY AND IN PARALLEL.

FINALLY, NO-ONE SEES THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT AS

AN INSTRUMENT FOR THE EXTENSION INTO THE PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL SECTOR OF INTERVENTIONIST, DIRIGISTE POLICIES ON THE PART OF THE STATE. THE REALITY OF THE MIXED ECONOMY WILL REMAIN. IN MANY SECTORS, IT WILL BE UP TO PRIVATE INDUSTRY TO BRING ABOUT ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN CANADA AND THE COMMUNITY-ECONOMIC COOPERATION FOR WHICH THE AGREEMENT WILL PROVIDE NO MORE THAN THE FRAME. END TEXT. COPIES OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED TO EUR/CAN, EUR/RPE, AND USEC.

3. COMMENT: ACCORDING TO EXTAFF (SHANNON, DIRECTOR, COMMERCIAL POLICY DIVISION) NEGOTIATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO GET UNDERWAY IN BRUSSELS ON MARCH 11 WHEN BOTH SIDES WILL MAKE OPENING STATEMENTS. NEGOTIATIONS WILL RESUME LATER IN MONTH. WHILE SHANNON DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT SOME SESSIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE IN OTTAWA, HE THOUGHT BULK OF NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE IN BRUSSELS WHERE EC WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO OPERATE.

4. ECON COUNSELOR REMINDED SHANNON ABOUT USG CONCERNS ON CONTENT OF AGREEMENT. HE REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT GOC HAD NO INTENTION OF ENTERING INTO PREFERENTIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH EC. HE SAID HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS. ENDERS

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